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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/493,242	01/28/2000	Alain Benayoun	FR998-073	1991

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EXAMINER

WOO, ISAAC M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2172

DATE MAILED: 09/30/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/493,242

Applicant(s)

BENAYOUN ET AL.

Examiner

Isaac M Woo

Art Unit

2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 July 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 July 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to Applicant's amendments, filed on July 02, 2002 have been considered but are deemed moot in view of new ground of rejections below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yung (U.S. Patent No. 4,961,224) in view of Ukai et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,101,506, hereinafter, "Ukai").

With respect to claims 1, 11 and 14, Yung discloses the file manager (file server, computer C3, FIG. 1; col. 4, lines 13-17; col. 3, lines 27-32 and col. 9, lines 55-57) provided for locating a file (col. 4, lines 19-22) identified by a path referring to a logical unit and an identifier (30, header, FIG. 2, directory, col. 4, lines 46-50), table (16, access log, FIG. 2 and col. 4, lines 13-16) for associating the file with a priority list (col. 4, lines

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37-42) of physical units, see (col. 4, lines 46-57). Yung fails to disclose that the physical units store a plurality of versions of the file. However, Ukai discloses that the physical units (30, FIG. 1, col. 9, lines 32-54) store a plurality of versions of the file, see (FIG. 3, FIG. 4, col. 11, lines 1-50). Therefore, it would have been obvious a person having ordinary skill in the art to include the physical units store a plurality of versions of the file into the system of Yung. The series of files have a common file name and different versions may be accommodated in one of the physical storing units and are classified with directories to easy access and retrieve, which are called "version managing of the files". Thus, it would be beneficial to use version managing (directory based file managing) to increase the efficiency of file managing.

With respect to claim 2, Yung discloses the unit for modifying the priority list, see (col. 5, line 61-67 and col. 6, lines 20-31).

With respect to claims 3-4, Yung discloses that the table (16, access log, FIG. 2) defines attributes (22, 24, 26 and 28, FIG. 2) for each item of the priority list, see (col. 4, lines 31-37).

With respect to claim 5, Yung discloses that the table defines for the file a physical unit with a write attributes that differs from a physical unit with a read attributes, see (col. 6, lines 31-33).

With respect to claims 6-7, Yung discloses the unit for modifying the attributes, see (col. 6, lines 20-32).

With respect to claim 8, Yung discloses that the controller of peripheral devices in a computer system, comprising a file manager, see (file server, computer C3, FIG.1; col. 4, lines 13-17; col. 3, lines 27-32 and col. 1, lines 29-34).

With respect to claims 9-10, Yung discloses that the operating system of a computer system, comprising a file manager, see (col. 3, lines 27-32 and col. 9, lines 55-64).

With respect to claims 12, Yung discloses that the plurality of versions of the file with a common logical identification are savable, see (col. 3, lines 26-39).

With respect to claims 13, Yung discloses the modifying unit for modifying the priority list, to access any of the plurality of versions, see (col. 3, lines 39-51).

With respect to claim 15, Yung discloses that second request for a file logical path name and a file name is the same as first request, the file, manager associates physical unit listed on the priority to the file name of the second request different from a physical unit associated with a file name of the first request, see (FIG. 3, col. 7, lines 40-

67 to col. 8, lines 1-67 to col. 9, lines 1-23, Note: first request and second request can be differentiated by priority values when system detects conflict).

With respect to claim 16, Yung discloses that the table comprises a plurality of associations of a same file logical path and file name in a one-to one correspondence with a plurality of physical units, see (col. 4, lines 3-57).

With respect to claim 17, Yung discloses that the file manager selectively accesses a first association of a same file logical path name and a file name established prior to a second association of a file logical path name and a file name, see (FIG. 3, col. 7, lines 40-67 to col. 8, lines 1-67 to col. 9, lines 1-23).

With respect to claim 18, Yung discloses that the file manager routes a subsequent request to access a same file logical path name and a same file name as previous request to a different version of the file logical path name and the file name on a different physical unit, see (col. 5, lines 53-67 to col. 6, lines 1-67).

With respect to claim 19, Yung discloses that the file manager establishes and maintains the priority list of physical unit, see (col. 4, lines 3-57).

With respect to claim 20, Ukai discloses that the physical unit holds a different version of the file, see (30, FIG. 1, col. 9, lines 32-54, FIG. 3, FIG. 4, col. 11, lines 1-50).

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.


Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Isaac M Woo whose telephone number is (703) 305-0081. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Y Vu can be reached on (703) 305-4393. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 308-6606 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

IMW
September 23, 2002


KIM VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100